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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Office of Strategic Information

1. Mr. Honaman told me yesterday that on Friday of this week he is making a presentation to the Cabinet on the problems which his Office is facing. This presentation was arranged by Mr. Cutler who apparently decided that he preferred to do it this way rather than to wait until the matter came before the Security Council.

2. The following is a summary of the report which Mr. Honaman left with us the other day and which is being transmitted to the Security Council through the I.C.I.S.:

SUMMARY

Industry, in general, is alert, well aware of the strategic information problem and cooperative. Industry is not our major problem in respect to published information.

Establishment of O.S.I. brought on a nation-wide flurry of editorial criticism, mainly the result of a campaign conducted by a small group fearing "censorship."

Such attacks have now subsided. In private many editors are in sympathy with the program and the aims of O.S.I. It must be expected that a small minority of editors will fail to cooperate with any "voluntary program." Competition for readership may then prevent the majority from withholding strategic information. For this reason, not too much can be expected of a voluntary editorial program at this time.

In addition, editors remonstrate that most of the dangerous information published has first been officially "released" or "leaked" from a Government Department. This appears to be true. This matter should have immediate attention at top Government levels.

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The Interdepartmental Committee on Government Publications has been formed and three problems are being investigated, (1) how to prevent leakage of strategic information, (2) classification and declassification systems, and (3) aerial photography.

The Interdepartmental Committee on International Exchanges has been formed and is at work on the problem of centralizing exchanges which was specifically posed in the N.S. C. Directive.

There appears to be an increasing trend by the Soviet Bloc Nations to exchange information.

One problem, the delay in processing Soviet Bloc material through Customs is on the way to solution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that action be taken at high level to prevent the unwarranted release of strategic information, both classified and unclassified, by officials and others of the Government.

Consistency in release and classification practices among Departments should be improved.

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